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Wild Turkey Fortunes
On Upswing In North Carolina
See Page 9

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March 1985

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So deep-rooted is Amazoy... it grows into practically indestructible turf.

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By Jack T. Johnson, Agronomist

Every year I see people pour more and more money into their lawns. They dig, fertilize and lime. They rake it all in. They scatter their seed and roll and water it. Birds love it! Seeds which aren't washed away by rain give them a feast. But some seed grows, and soon it's time to weed, water and mow, mow... until summer comes to burn the lawn into hay, or crabgrass and diseases infest it. That's what happens to ordinary grass, but not to Amazoy Zoysia.

"MOWED IT 2 TIMES," WRITES WOMAN

For example, Mrs. M. R. Mitter writes me how her lawn "...is the envy of all who see it. When everybody's lawns around here are brown from drought ours just stays as green as ever. I've never watered it, only when I put the plugs in... Last summer we had it mowed (2) times. Another thing, we never have to pull any weeds — it's just wonderful!"

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When planted in existing lawn areas plugs will spread to drive out old, unwanted growth including weeds — from part shade to full sun. Goes off its green color after killing frosts. Begins regaining its green color at the time when the temperature in the spring is consistently warm. This, of course, varies with climate. Easy planting instructions with order.

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Amazoy thrives in porous, sandy soil, "builder's soil" — even salty beach areas! Beauty is but one advantage of Zoysia Grass. It's also so vigorous and rich it thrives in soils where lesser grasses have failed you repeatedly. Start your Amazoy lawn this Spring, and never re-seed your lawn again!

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In Support Of True Defense

This editorial is drawn from remarks by Rep. Jamie Whitten (D.-Miss.) at a recent congressional committee hearing.

After that wonderful presentation by the President, it becomes difficult to keep our eyes on the ball as we carry out our assignment of oversight in the President's budget and its effect on our economy.

In an effort to get down to earth, Mr. Secretary (Treasury's James Baker), I've read your predecessor's—Mr. Regan's—statement before our committee last year. It showed that 165 billion dollars of the deficit comes from the repeal of the windfall profits tax, excess profits tax and permitting the real money makers to buy tax credits instead of paying their tax, all recommended by the President . . .

Now the money which would be cut from . . . essential domestic programs would not be applied to payment on the national debt but would provide an additional \$36.2 billion for military spending where activity is accepted as productivity, and aid for foreign countries for the same things they would cut out here at home.

Apparently the President wants to add the carryover of unspent funds

for military spending which is becoming a regular practice . . . This \$36.2 billion add-on would make a total defense carryover of \$279.6 billion in unspent funds on Sept. 30, 1986, the end of the fiscal year. The President's proposal would endanger our economy and weaken public support . . . We must remember defense can never be measured by how much money we spend in the name of the military, for true defense requires a *sound economy, public support, capability and readiness.*

If the President's request was approved . . . there would be virtually nothing left for essential domestic programs.

Mr. Stockman, you do not appear to understand that if the farmer is bankrupt, the country banks go bankrupt, then it reaches the larger banks—and the depression follows. That is the history of depression in our country, for every depression has been led off by a break in farm income—and our leaders then did not understand that bankruptcies snowball . . .

The effect of the proposals in the budget would be that we would neglect our land. We would sacrifice our agricultural strength where the farmer

has been financing our foreign policy. Instead of passing on reasonable prices to the user for the farmers' products, executive policy has been to embargo our farmers' production from overseas markets, thus increasing foreign competitors' acreage.

Agriculture—our largest industry—bigger than housing, automobiles and steel combined, is virtually bankrupt.

Under the President's proposals, essential and vital domestic programs would be cut back or eliminated entirely—programs that have allowed us to get our soil back into trees and grass; to prevent erosion; to develop our highways, our rivers and harbors; to provide health care; to educate our youth—and in essence to develop our real material wealth.

If farmers' volume is cut, price supports cut, if he or she cannot meet payments due, how can we expect the land owner, the farm producer, to protect the land for us and future generations when he cannot meet the payments on his debt? History shows they cannot . . . if we spend ourselves into bankruptcy in the name of military in peace time, where will we get the money to finance our troops in time of war?

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Carolina Country®

(ISSN 0008-6746)

Read Monthly In More Than 320,000 Homes
Vol. 18 No. 3, March, 1985

Official Publication

North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives, Inc.
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Carolina Country (formerly Carolina Farmer) is published by the North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives, Inc. Second class postage paid at Raleigh, North Carolina, and additional mailing office Editorial Offices, P.O. Box 27306, Raleigh, N.C. 27611. Carolina Country is a registered trademark of the North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives. Postmaster send form 3579 to P.O. Box 27306, Raleigh, N.C. 27611. EMC group subscription \$1.92 a year; individual \$2.00. Address all mail to Carolina Country, P.O. Box 27306, Raleigh, N.C. 27611.

EMC Women Present Two Scholarships

High school seniors from Wilkes County and Columbus County have been awarded 1985 Rural Electric Youth Tour Scholarships from the Women's Committee of the statewide organization of Electric Membership Corporations.

The scholarships went to James Randal (Randy) Pierce, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jim C. Pierce of Millers Creek, and Gloria Elaine Malpass, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Benny Earl Malpass of Rt. 1, Delco.

Both awards are for \$1,000.

The winners were selected from among the participants in the 1984 Rural Electric Youth Tour to Washington. The tour is sponsored by the state's EMCs for rising high school seniors.

Pierce, who was sponsored on the tour by Blue Ridge EMC, Lenoir, received the first annual Youth Tour Scholarship bearing the name of Evelyn B. Price of Warrensville, who was instrumental in getting many of North Carolina's electric co-ops started.

Ms. Malpass, who represented Brunswick EMC, Shallotte, on the tour, was awarded a one-time-only scholarship bearing the name of Price's wife, Pauline Shoaf Price.

The scholarships were named for the Prices as part of the EMCs' observance of the 50th anniversary of the rural electrification program in 1985.

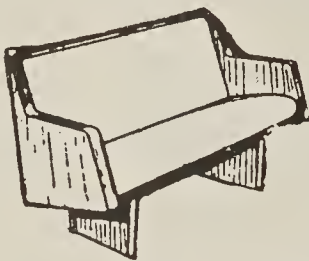
The recipients were chosen on the basis of scholastic achievement, financial need and extra-curricular activities in the school and community.



Pierce

Malpass

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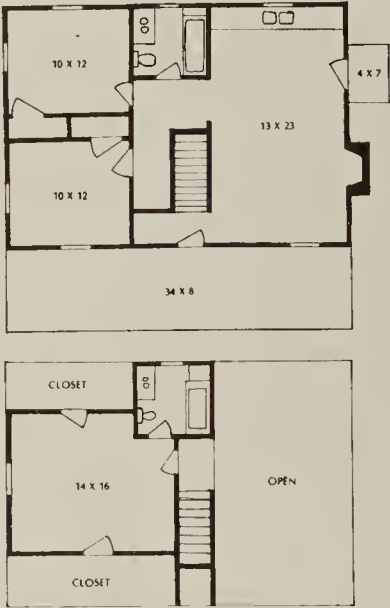
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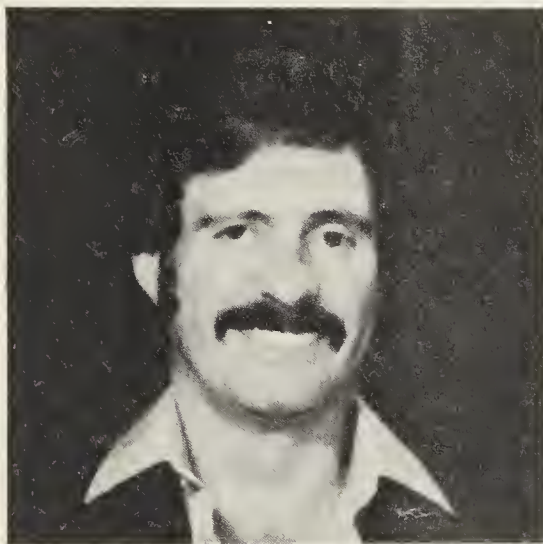
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Fraternity Recognizes 'Friends Of Extension'

Epsilon Sigma Phi, agricultural extension's honorary fraternity, has given its 1984 "Friends of Extension Awards" to Wayne Corpening, Winston-Salem mayor and member of the UNC Board of Governors; Lector E. Ray, retired Cumberland County farmer, businessman and community leader and Clint M. Reese, executive-secretary of the N.C. Cattlemen's Association.

The fraternity gave its State Distinguished Service Awards to Dr. Charles R. Pugh, retired extension economist; Grover W. Westmoreland, Henderson County extension chairman and Dr. W. K. Collins, extension tobacco specialist.

Grifton Shad Festival Slated For April 20-21

Grifton, a community between Greenville and Kinston which bills itself as "The Family Town," will host its 15th Annual Shad Festival, April 20-21.

Scheduled events include a fish fry, a parade, a band concert, a street dance, canoe and bicycle races, an archery tournament and a "Fishy Tales" liars' contest.

Contentnea Creek, which flows through Grifton, is a tributary of the Neuse River and is a prime spawning creek for hickory shad.

For more information about the festival, write or call Mrs. Janet L. Haseley, P.O. Box 928, Grifton, N.C. 28530. Phone: (919) 524-4356.

Newport Sets Seventh Pig Cookin' Contest

A total of 104 pigs will be cooked during the Seventh Annual Pig Cookin' Contest at Newport in Carteret-County, April 5-6.

The event will also feature music, dancing and singing.

Proceeds from the contest this year will benefit the Newport Hawks

Cheerleaders, the Future Farmers of West Carteret, the Seashore Soccer League and the Newport Library.

For more information, call or write Shirley Humann, Newport Pig Cookin' Contest, P.O. Box PIG, Newport, N.C. 28570. Phone: (919) 223-4808.

Historic Halifax Events Scheduled For April 12-14

Living history vignettes and militia demonstrations featuring the Guilford Militia will be featured during the commemoration of the adoption of the Halifax Resolves at Historic Halifax, April 12-14.

The festivities will also mark the 30th anniversary of the formation of the Historical Halifax Restoration Association.

Radio and television personality Ray Wilkinson, who is chairman of the restoration association, will be keynote speaker for the Halifax

Resolves commemoration April 12 at 11 a.m.

Other events, including self-guided tours of the historic building are scheduled for 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on April 13 and from 1 to 5 p.m. on April 14.

For more information about the events, write or call Margaret Phillips at the Historic Halifax Visitor Center, P.O. Box 406, Halifax, N.C. 27839. Phone: (919) 583-7191.

REA Loan Cleared For Halifax EMC

Halifax Electric Membership Corporation, Enfield, has been awarded a \$770,000 loan by the Rural Electrification Administration for an expansion project.

The loan will be used to finance construction of 35 miles of distribution line serving 500 potential consumers. The project includes



Beverly Hall, which dates back to 1810, is one of 10 pre-Revolutionary and antebellum private homes in the Edenton area that will be open for visitors April 12-13 during the Edenton Woman's Club biennial Pilgrimage. Beverly Hall, which was built to house the owner's private bank, still features a usable bank vault. Headquarters for the pilgrimage will be Edenton's Municipal Building, where tickets and other information will be available. Tickets will be \$15 for adults and \$7.50 for students. For more information, including rates for advance purchase of group tickets, write to Pilgrimage, P.O. Box 326 Edenton, N.C. 27934 or call Carolina Abbe at (919) 482-7278.

ERE / EVERYWHERE / HERE / THERE

building a substation and making improvements at two others, as well as improving eight miles of existing lines.

The REA financing will cover 70 percent of the project, while the remainder will be covered with financing through the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation.

Halifax EMC serves about 8,000 consumer-members in Warren, Halifax, Martin and Nash Counties.

Events Scheduled To Honor Wilbur Wright

The Third Annual Wilbur Wright Fly In is scheduled for April 26-28 at the Wright Brothers National Memorial and the First Flight Air-strip in Kill Devil Hills.

The three-day festival will honor Wilbur Wright's birthday on April 16.

The festivities will include a wreath-laying ceremony, flying events and an aircraft competition.

For more information, call Bob Woody, National Park Service (919) 473-2111 or Katherine Martin - (919) 441-4124.

Retired EMC Manager Gets National Honor

A retired manager of Carteret-Craven Electric Membership Corporation, Morehead City, is one of 22 rural electric program leaders across the country who have been honored by the National Rural

Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC).

W. C. Carlton, who was Carteret-Craven EMC's manager from 1950 to 1973, was presented with a Pioneer Award in recognition of his role in organizing the financial institution, which provides financing to electric and telephone co-ops to supplement Rural Electrification Administration loans.

A Georgia native, Carlton served on the Long-Range Study Committee which oversaw the establishment of CFC in 1969 and was a member of its board of directors during its first year of operation.

Carlton was the North Carolina representative on the board of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association from 1962 to 1971.

While on that board, he served as a rural electrification specialist on

assignments in Costa Rica, Venezuela and India.

CFC presented the Pioneer Awards as part of its observance of rural electrification's 50th anniversary this year.

Tar Heel Named To Ag Hall Of Fame

Dr. Hugh Hammond Bennett of Anson County, who is known as the father of U.S. soil conservation, is one of three individuals who'll be inducted into the Agricultural Hall of Fame on April 19 in Kansas City.

The honor recognizes lasting contributions to agriculture in America. Inductees are selected by a national committee which reviews nominees presented by the public.

Dr. Bennett (1881 - 1926) was

Continued on page 8

Cover Photo: Cardinal Perched In A Plum Tree

Our cover photo this month, capturing a cardinal perched in a plum tree, was shot by Judy Hubers of Rt. 1, Pantego.

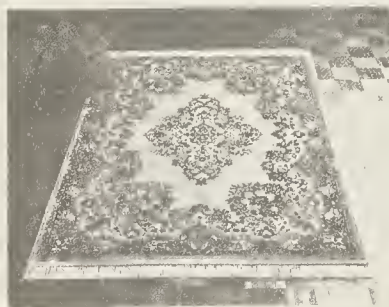
Ms. Hubers, who is a consumer-member of Tideland Electric Membership Corporation, Pantego, made the photo in her own yard about a year ago.



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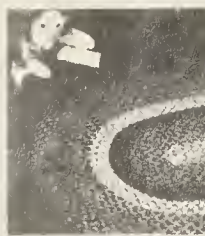
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Continued from page 7

the moving force behind the U.S. Soil Conservation Service and the Soil and Water Conservation Districts that now serve every U.S. county and many foreign nations. He developed soil conservation techniques in the 1920s and 1930s which changed tillage practices around the world.

Also scheduled to be inducted into the Hall of Fame are Luther Burbank (1849 - 1926), who is often called the "gardener to the world," and Roswell Garst, a hybrid corn promoter who has expanded the use of American agricultural technology as a diplomatic tool in East-West relations.

National Group Offering Highway Emergency Banner

What happens if your car breaks down on a lonely stretch of highway late at night? All too often, you must leave the safety of your car to find help.

Now a lifesaver for stranded motorists is as close as your glove compartment. The Highway Emergency Banner, with the message, "CALL POLICE," in reflective lettering, is easily secured to your rear window with pre-affixed double-faced tape.

More than 150,000 of the banners have been sold in the few weeks they have been available through the non-profit National Council of Jewish Women.

The reuseable banner costs \$3, including postage and handling.

Mail checks or money orders to NCJW Banner, P.O. Box 5300, Hopkins, MN 55343.

Havelock Gospel Sing Scheduled For April 14

The second annual Greater Havelock Gospel Sing is scheduled for April 14 at 2 p.m. in Havelock's City Park.

Gospel groups interested in entering the contest can obtain more information and entry forms by calling Beth King in Havelock at 447-8331.

Home Folks

Dr. Frederick P. Brooks Jr., Kenan professor and former chairman of computer science at UNC-CH, was one of the first recipients of the National Medal of Technology presented by President Reagan in a White House ceremony. Dr. Brooks and his colleagues were honored for their role in developing the IBM System/360 computer family. The medal was established by Congress in 1980. Twelve individuals and one corporation were among the first class of recipients **Alma Street Jenkins** of Selma has been named North Carolina's Mother of the Year by the N.C. Mothers' Association. Mrs. Jenkins is the mother of seven children. She was cited for having been solely responsible for her children most of their lives because her husband died when the youngest child was a baby. **Linda Williams**, coordinator of the social work field instruction program at N.C. State University and president of the N.C. Association of Social Workers for Mental Health, has been named the association's outstanding member for 1984 **Sue Applewhite** of Johnston County has been chosen 1985 Social Worker of the Year and State **Senator Wilma Woodard** of Wake County has been chosen Citizen of the Year by the state chapter of the National Association of Social Workers.



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Wild Turkey Fortunes On The Upswing



Benjamin Franklin would love North Carolina today.

Ol' Ben was a great fan of that native American strutter, the turkey. He wanted it selected as the national bird and placed on the Great Seal of the United States.

While the turkey lost that race years ago to the bald eagle, its fortunes are now definitely on the upswing in North Carolina.

Domesticated turkeys are getting most of the attention in the state these days. North Carolina growers produced 8 million of these plump and pampered creatures in 1984, making North Carolina the nation's leading turkey producer.

But the wild turkey is doing okay too. Its population has more than tripled in the past 25 years.

"The wild turkey population reached an all-time low in the 1960s when the population dwindled to an estimated three to four thousand birds," said Brian Hyder, Wild Turkey Project Leader for the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission.

As a result of increased awareness and protection, the present population of wild turkeys in North Carolina is about 12,000 birds.

The Wildlife Resources Commission conducts a restoration project which involves trapping and relocating turkeys. "We moved over 100 birds last year, but we still have a lot of work to do," Hyder said.

With restoration projects and proper management of land, Hyder believes the wild turkey population in the next decade.

The wild turkey is found throughout North Carolina, with double the largest populations in the Roanoke River basin, Camp Lejeune, Caswell County, as well as the counties of Orange, Alamance, Chatham, Person, Ashe, Alleghany, Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Swain, Macon, Jackson, Buncombe, Madison, Transylvania, McDowell, and Haywood.

Despite their growing numbers, North Carolina hunters will not be able to go out and bag a fresh gobbler for their next holiday meal. This is because the hunting season for gobblers (male turkeys) is April 10 to May 8. Bagging hens is illegal year around.

"The fact that North Carolina now has a hunting season is evidence that the wild turkey is doing all right", said Dr. Gary San Julian, extension wildlife specialist at North Carolina State University. "Our spring turkey season is the result of good management and a steady hunter interest."

Unlike his domesticated counterpart, the wild turkey has a reputation for being clever.

Hunting the birds requires stealth, camouflage and patience. It also requires that a hunter learn how to call the gobbler. Most gobblers are bagged when they fall prey to the seductive yelps, clucks and whines of what they think is a hen.

Generally, turkey habitat includes a scattering of mature hardwoods, mainly oaks and other mast-producing trees such as beech. The highest quality habitat for the wild turkey is in the Piedmont.

Turkeys consume a variety of foods. The principal foods include acorns, beechnuts, grasses, sedges, ferns, saw briar, beggar's tick and honeysuckle, as well as fruits of dogwood, grapes, black gum, wild cherry, blackberry and huckleberry.

Acorns may be the most important, because they are available during the fall and winter when most other foods are scarce. Acorns are nourishing and provide the high energy content needed during periods of extreme cold.

It is feasible to make artificial plantings for wild turkeys. Chufa, an annual sedge adapted to sandy loam soil, makes an excellent winter food source. Several clovers, as well as wheat, ryegrass, oats, corn, soybeans, cowpeas, vetch and bahiagrass make excellent plantings.

Landowners who want to learn how to manage their land to benefit the wild turkey should contact the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission, Attention Wildlife Management Division, 512 North Salisbury St., Raleigh, N.C. 27611.



Your Scratching Dog Could Have Allergy Or Infection

Spring. Flowers, birds, bees—and pollen.

Your nose itches. Your eyes smart. And your dog begins to scratch.

A coincidence? Not at all, says Dr. Vicki Scheidt, one of two staff dermatologists at the North Carolina State University School of Veterinary Medicine.

"A lot of dogs have seasonal allergies," Dr. Scheidt said. "While you're sneezing and wheezing, your dog is scratching."

The dog's itching response to pollen is one of many skin problems that illustrate how sensitive canine skin is.

Dr. Scheidt advises owners to groom and clean a dog's coat with care and seek a veterinarian's help when painful conditions cause continual suffering.

Spring allergy symptoms usually show up after the first year or two of a dog's life after it has been sensitized by its first seasonal exposure to various pollens, she said.

The affected dog starts licking its front paws, rubbing its face and scratching under its forearms. Telltale signs may be red, irritated skin or hair discolored brown by saliva.

Human allergy sufferers often get relief from antihistamines, Dr. Scheidt said. Instead, the veterinarian may manage mild, short-lived allergic dermatitis with cortisone. In severe cases, a veterinary dermatologist can try to pinpoint the specific allergic substance by skin testing and can prescribe allergy shots.

If your dog's hindquarters start getting red and itchy this spring, you might suspect the neighborhood flea instead of a pollen allergy. For some dogs, Dr. Scheidt said, the first flea bite of the warm season can cause a violent skin reaction.

For dogs allergic to flea saliva, she said, "it takes only one or two fleas

because a single bite can activate the allergic reaction. It's a real challenge because we cannot eradicate every flea."

Again, the veterinarian may prescribe cortisone along with flea powders, dips, sprays, collars and environmental controls.



While allergies are common in the spring, the overwhelming cause of canine skin problems is bacterial infections, which can occur by themselves or as a secondary problem when the skin is disturbed by other irritations.

"Ninety percent of what I see are bacterial infections," said Dr. Scheidt,

who with Dr. Tom Manning practice and teaches veterinary dermatology at the NCSU School of Veterinary Medicine and its teaching hospital.

Infected dogs may have crusty sore and hair loss, with the infection occurring in the skin and hair follicles. The most common culprits are the staphylococcus or "staph" family of bacteria.

"In mild cases, topical antibacterial shampoos can be used," she said. "But when they are very generalized the infections often require a course of systemic antibiotics."

The good news is that a dog's skin has many built-in defense mechanisms. The owner can help these work, the dermatologist said, with good grooming.

Bathing is one part of prevention. A monthly bath is usually enough, Dr. Scheidt said. Dirt, a bad odor or sores are signs that bathtime is overdue.

Because of the sensitivity of the skin, she warns owners to resist the temptation to use strong deodorant or dandruff soaps and shampoos. Instead, she suggests mild soaps such as liquid dish detergent or baby shampoo.

The best prevention is brushing, Dr. Scheidt said.

"For dogs with long coats, brushing daily or every other day remove dead hair and distributes natural oil which have bacteriocidal and fungistatic properties," she said.

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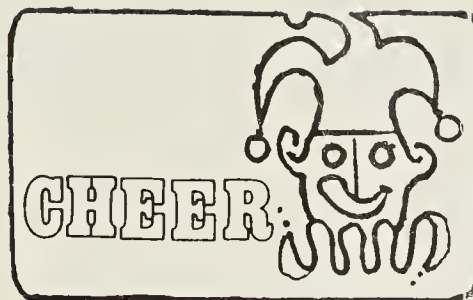
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 "Does he beat you up?"
 "No, I get up earlier than he does."
 "What about heirs?"
 "It's not true that I plan to marry Mister Ayers. We're just good friends."
 "Do you have a gigolo?"
 "Yes, but I don't play it anymore. I don't have time to practice."

Finally the lawyer asked, "Madam, exactly why do you want a divorce?" She replied, "Because it is impossible to communicate with that man!"



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EMC ANNUAL MEETINGS CALENDAR

Date	Electric Membership Corporation	Time	Location
Mar.			
16	Edgecombe-Martin County, Tarboro	Registration: 12:00 noon Business meeting: 2:00 p.m.	Edgecombe Technical College Auditorium, Tarboro
22	Jones-Onslow, Jacksonville	Registration: 6:00 p.m. Business Meeting: 7:00 p.m.	Jacksonville Senior High School, Jacksonville
22	Wake, Wake Forest	Registration: 6:00-7:15 p.m. Entertainment: 6:30 p.m. Business Meeting: 7:15 p.m.	Wake Forest-Rolesville, Senior High School Gymnasium, Wake Forest
28	South River, Dunn	Registration: 6:30 p.m. Entertainment: 7:30 p.m. Business Meeting: 8:00 p.m.	Cumberland Memorial Auditorium, Fayetteville
30	Halifax, Enfield	Registration: 12:00 noon Business Meeting: 2:00 p.m.	Enfield Middle School, Enfield
April			
20	French Broad, Marshall	Registration: 10:00 a.m. Entertainment: 11:00 a.m. Business Meeting: 1:30 p.m.	Madison High School, Marshall

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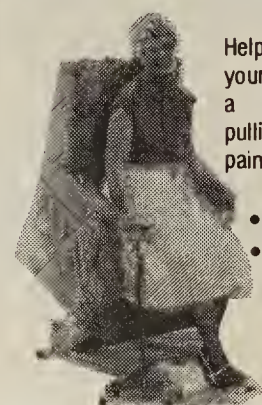
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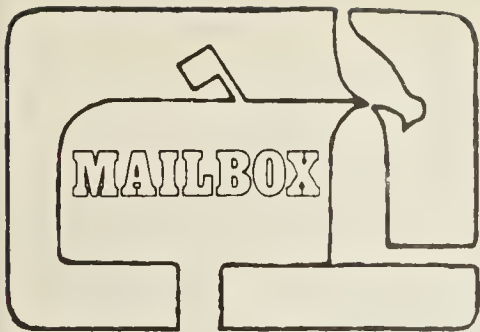
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Rep. Rose Greets Tar Heels At National Meeting

North Carolina's Seventh District Rep. Charles Rose, standing at left, chats with Mr. and Mrs. Oren Teague of Rt. 1, Granite Falls, during a luncheon for North Carolina representatives attending the recent annual meeting of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. Rep. Rose addressed the luncheon session. Teague is a director of Blue Ridge Electric Membership Corporation, Lenoir. Seated with the Teagues is John R. Austin, another Blue Ridge EMC director. Standing at right is Jim Hubbard, executive vice-president of North Carolina's statewide organization of electric co-ops.

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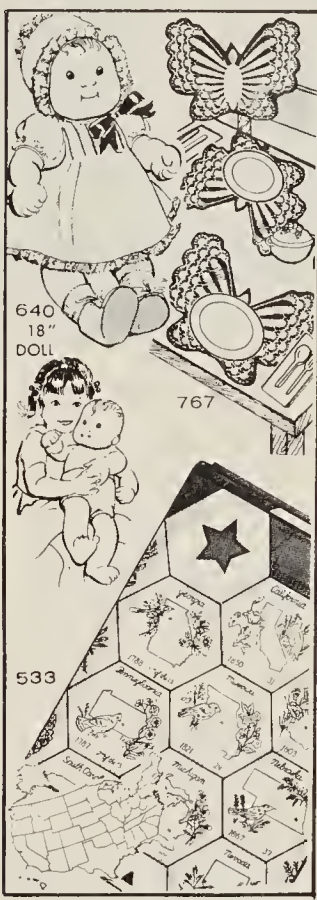
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COUNTRY KITCHEN



Want To Share Your Recipes?

If you would like to share a recipe with this column, send it to: CAROLINA COUNTRY, P.O. Box 27306, Raleigh, NC 27611.
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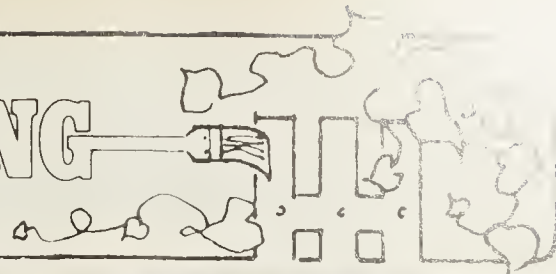
Elegant Chocolate Pound Cake

Submitted by Mrs. Fred Hartsoe of Winston-Salem

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 cup butter or margarine | 1 teaspoon lemon extract | ½ teaspoon baking powder |
| ½ cup shortening | 1½ cups milk or 8 oz. sour cream | ½ cup cocoa |
| 3 cups sugar | 5 eggs, separated | ⅛ teaspoon salt |
| 3 teaspoons vanilla extract | 3 cups flour | |

Cream butter and shortening with sugar. Add flavorings. Add egg yolks, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Sift dry ingredients and add to creamed mixture alternately with milk or sour cream. Blend well after each addition. Beat eggs white until stiff but not dry and fold into batter. Bake at 325 degrees 1 hour or test until done.
 ICING: Melt 1 stick butter or margarine and 2 ounces unsweetened chocolate. Add one 16 ounce box powdered sugar, 1 teaspoon vanilla extract and 1 teaspoon lemon juice.
 Beat only until smooth in small mixer bowl. Spread immediately on warm cake. Sprinkle top with 1 cup chopped pecans, if desired.

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The "bricks" for this easy project are cut from standard lumber sizes available at all lumber and home centers. —There's no intricate brick-laying necessary. Redwood or red cedar are recommended since both require little maintenance.

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HANK'S GARDENING GUIDE

As days of March get longer, gardening activities begin to increase. You'll want to finish planting woody ornamentals before tender new growth begins to show. Allow a bit of time to look around to discover new and different varieties of bulbs and flowering shrubs—you may want to include some of them in your next year's garden.

Prune After Flowering

Deciduous flowering trees and shrubs should be pruned when they have finished flowering.

For multistemmed types, such as forsythia and flowering quince, cut back about a third of the older stems all the way to the ground. Shorten branches of other types to give a natural look. If possible, avoid a formal, boxed or balled appearance.

Vegetables

Plant seeds of beets, carrots, chard, kale, lettuce, onions, radishes, spinach and turnips this month. But wait another month for the soil to warm before planting seedlings of eggplant, peppers and tomatoes.

Nematodes

If parasitic nematodes have become a problem in your garden or flower border, now's the time to test the soil to reduce their numbers. Chemicals available at nurseries and garden supply centers for nematode control may be applied to the soil before planting or used around established plants. Read the label thoroughly and follow instructions carefully.

Mulch

Now is the time to replenish mulch on azaleas and camellias if needed. If you have a wildflower garden, remove the leaf covering gradually. Too heavy a covering will smother plants that are just coming up from seed.

Annuals

Now is the time to sow seed of some annual flowering plants. The following may be planted directly into well-prepared beds outside: poppy, cornflower, globe amaranth, sweet alyssum and strawflower.

Other bedding plants may be started indoors for late planting outside. Purchase from a garden supply store next month such slow-to-bloom annuals as candytuft, gaillardia, rudbeckia and verbenas.

Care for Daffodils

When daffodils are in bloom, water them as necessary to keep soil moist. When you cut flowers for indoor use, don't disturb the foliage. The leaves are manufacturing food for bulb growth to provide next year's bloom. Foliage should be removed only after it turns yellow and dies down.

After foliage is removed, bulbs may be dug, divided and replanted if they have become crowded. Divide each clump by removing new bulbs that pull away easily—don't force them apart. To do so could cause damage.

If you have a large area that's unused for gardening activities, scatter extra daffodil bulbs at random to give a "host of golden daffodils" next year.

Have You Tried Gerberas?

One of the most colorful of summer-flowering perennials is the gerbera. The daisy-like blooms come in a vast range of colors including reds, pinks, lavenders and yellows. Although plants need to be dug and given winter protection in the higher altitudes of the western part of the state, they come through with a heavy

winter mulch in other sections of the state.

Plants may be secured at garden centers or started from seed. If you're growing them from seed, it is best to start them indoors for later outdoor planting. Once established, gerberas will multiply into clumps. These clumps may be dug and divided after three years of growth.

Gerberas make a satisfactory winter houseplant if you can give them ample light. A sunny window is ideal. Supplement light with a special plant growth fluorescent tube. Even a table or floor lamp will help.

Prune Crepe Myrtle

Before growth begins, prune crepe myrtles. Cut plants back a third to half of the new growth. Crepe myrtles will produce flushes of new growth during the summer. This growth is capable of forming flowers. Crepe myrtle is one of few plants that bloom on new growth of the present season.

Get Ready, Get Set, Go

Good gardening days in the early spring are sometimes widely spaced and it is exasperating to have to lose any of them because of unready tools.

When you have an hour or two look over tools and equipment and get them ready for use. If your trowel, shovel, spade or hoe are rusty, shine them up by rubbing with kerosene and sand or steel wool. Then sharpen cutting edges with a few swipes along the inside face of each with a good file. It's true that tools will wear out faster if this is done, but you will find it much easier to work with clear sharp tools.

Shade Gardens

There are no annual flowers that will grow in **total** shade. A perennial ground cover such as ajuga, periwinkle, english ivy or pachysandra would be more suitable for such corners.



ditions. Among flowers that might possibly succeed are: cleome, cornflower, godetia, lobelia, nasturtium, nicotinia, wishbone-flower and the all time favorite—impatiens.

Get Those Plants In The Ground!

Buds are beginning to pop out fast so get your plants in the ground before too much new growth develops. Plant dormant ones before they no longer are dormant.

Also it's time to prune established ones too before they get into too much growth.

Pruning Away Winter Damage

Winter's severe freezes left many plants in sad shape. In some cases, new growth buds are forming—and the plant will make a comeback. In some cases, shrubs were frozen all the way down the stem and into the roots.

Late this month and in April, examine your shrubs for signs of life. If they do not show signs of swelling buds, cut away damaged wood. Starting at the tip of a branch, cut back a few inches. If the stem appears dead beneath the bark, cut back a few more inches. Continue cutting down the stem until you see signs of a healthy green color beneath the bark.

Should there be no signs of life as far back as the ground level, cut away all stems. Although it's doubtful, there is a chance that new growth shoots will appear from the roots this summer—if roots have not been frozen.

Lilacs Often Need Lime

Lilacs respond to an application of fertilizer. A general all-purpose balanced fertilizer such as an 8-8-8 analysis is in early spring and again in mid-summer is desirable. Lilacs grow best in neutral or alkaline soil. They prefer full sun, well-drained soil. In areas of the North and Midwest where lilacs flourish, this condition occurs naturally. But such soil is not common to many areas of North Carolina.

Generally, a cup of agricultural lime applied to the soil surface underneath the foliage mass of a 3-4 foot plant is enough to bring soil to the desired alkaline condition for lilacs. Make the application every 3-4 years.

—Hank Smith

Carolina Country March 1985



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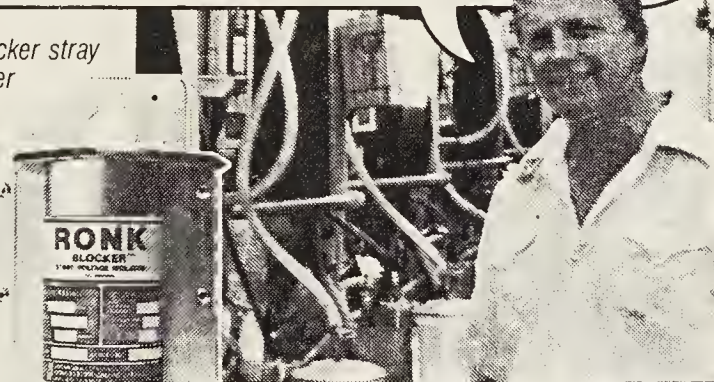
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The U.S. Postal Service will issue this commemorative stamp May 11 marking the 50th anniversary of rural electrification. Plans call for 160 million of the stamps to be printed.

Stamp To Mark 50th Anniversary Of Nation's Rural Electric Program

The U.S. Postal Service will issue a commemorative stamp May 11 to mark the 50th anniversary of the nation's rural electrification program.

The program was launched May 11, 1935, when President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed an executive order creating the Rural Electrification Administration to extend power to rural America.

A total of 160 million of the 22-cent commemorative stamps will be printed. They'll be sold through local post offices for about 60 or 90 days.

The design for the stamp was chosen from about 5,000 unsolicited suggestions that annually pour into the Postal Service's headquarters in Washington, D.C. The service issues about 25 commemorative stamps each year.

The rural electrification stamp was designed by freelance artist Howard Koslow of East Norwich, N.Y., who had



previously designed four other postage stamps. He designed stamps commemorating the Tennessee Valley Authority in 1983, the Antarctic Treaty in 1971 and a National Parks Centennial Series in 1972.

A 17-member Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee selects the concepts to be used on commemorating stamps, operating under a charter requiring it to consider every idea submitted.

The suggestion that a stamp commemorate REA's 50th anniversary came to the committee from various rural electrification supporters and historians interested in FDR's New Deal programs, many of which will reach their 50th anniversaries this year.

Committee member Wilber J. Cohen, who served as Lyndon Johnson's secretary of health, education and welfare, said the REA stamp was approved because "the rural electrification legislation was landmark, revolutionary legislation. It resulted in major

changes of historic proportions in farming in rural areas."

He added: "it significantly reduced the heavy burden of women's drudgery in the home and the farmer's heavy and tedious work in the barn and in the field. It liberated both men and women from grinding work which enabled them to have an improved quality of life."

Once the committee had endorsed the idea, a final decision on it rested with then-Postmaster General William F. Bolger, who retired in January.

Bolger, who is now an executive with a Washington public relations firm, said the signing of the Rural Electrification Act was "one of the most significant events that ever took place in America . . . I thought it was something that ought to be commemorated with a stamp."

The first day of issue postmark for the stamp can be obtained at opening day ceremonies in Madison, S.C., or through a written request to the Postal Service.

BOOKS



The Catawba River by Frye Gaillard and Dot Jackson, with photographs by Don Sturkey. Gardner-Webb College Press. 56 pages. \$20.

This is a dramatic story of one of the major river systems of North and South Carolina, from the Catawba's origin not far from Mount Mitchell to its present outlet near Charleston. We read about the river, as it passes from North Carolina's McDowell County past Morganton and Hickory, then south toward the Charlotte area. Then down to Rock Hill and Great Falls, miles east of Columbia and then southwest toward Charleston—a journey of more than 450 winding miles.

We also visit the large lakes that are a part of the river (and in some cases swallow the river, only to have it re-emerged downstream.)

This is also a book about people. People who live on the river, have fun with their water sports and even people who voiced sorrow that Duke Power Co. wanted to dam the river and create Lake Norman.

We meet folks who really take to the river and its lakes. Here is a river guide who thinks that rock fish is the best eating you can catch. One photo shows a monk at the Mepkin Abbey observing the beauty of still waters. An old mountaineer crosses a tumultuous stream on a felled pine tree. And we learn that some mountain bootleggers (who, after all, need water to operate their stills) appreciate having a reliable supply of clean water. But we also read about a small tributary stream, severely polluted, that was so bad the water killed hogs.

Industry lines the banks of the Catawba. Numerous power plants, steam generated and nuclear. A big paper mill just south

of the border.

All these items are covered—in very readable style and with illustrations that range from very good to magnificent—in black and white and in color.

This material was a project of *The Charlotte Observer* and the two reporters and one photographer listed as authors. This is a book to keep, read and then peruse again from time to time at your leisure.

You can read it in a short time, but you shouldn't. It's a book to savor.

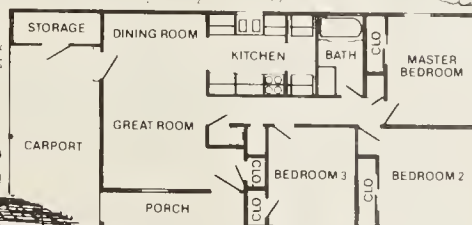
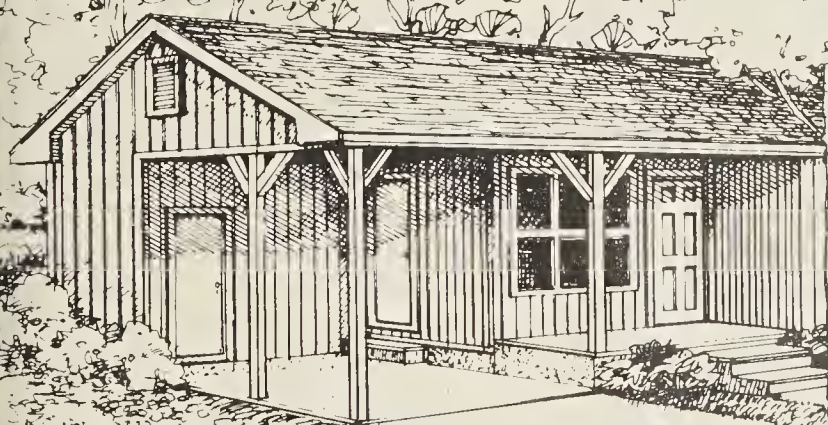
—Frank Jeter, Jr.

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WASHINGTON SCENE

Lawmakers Calling In Political Green Stamps To Save Leaf Program

North Carolina's congressional delegation, along with members from other tobacco producing states, will be trying to cash in some green stamps this year as they try to save the federal tobacco program.

Realistically, the Tar Heels know that 1985 will see the price support system for tobacco under intense fire, as opponents of the program will be joined by the Reagan administration in an effort to kill it.

Less than six weeks after the current session started, bills to end outright the support program were introduced in both Houses of Congress.

"It is time to give the tobacco program a merciful death," said Rep. Thomas Petri of Wisconsin, who introduced the bill in the House of Representatives.

Sen. Howard Metzenbaum of Ohio, who introduced the bill in the upper chamber, called it, "the worst program of all."

Congressman Charlie Rose of Fayetteville, a leading spokesman for tobacco in Congress, realizes this.

"There is no way to keep it off the floor," Rose said recently, meaning that it will be brought up for debate and vote.

"Somebody will offer an amendment that says no more money can go to support the tobacco program."

Rep. Charles Whitley of Mt. Olive agrees that the fight will come, and he says the time may be here to call in some political green stamps.

"There is no way that a congressman from Brooklyn can explain to

his constituents why he voted for a tobacco bill," said Whitley. "That's why we are going to point out to our colleagues from New York that we voted for the New York loan guarantee that was very unpopular in North Carolina."

He said that point would also be made to members from Michigan, recalling North Carolina support for the Chrysler bailout.

If that seems cynical, observers say, that is how most matters are settled in Washington. Congressmen from wheat states, for instance, will support dairy programs and expect support on wheat programs from dairy state members.

"If it hadn't worked this way," one Senate aide said, "tobacco would have been dead long ago."

But tobacco seems especially vulnerable this year.

In the past, anti-tobacco lawmakers have argued that it makes little sense to support the commodity when the government is spending money to warn people that it's bad for their health.

But this year, these opponents in Congress have been joined by the Reagan administration. Agriculture Secretary John Block has announced that he will propose to end price supports and allotments for tobacco.

This brought an immediate response from tobacco state legislators.

"If they persist in this, then it's war," said Rep. Larry Hopkins of Kentucky, normally a Reagan ally in the House.

It also brought North Carolina's

Sen. Jesse Helms, chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee, into the arena. Any new farm legislation must be cleared by Helms' committee and he could be a major roadblock to any new measures that the White House might send to Capitol Hill.

Although tobacco is not a part of the 1985 Farm Bill that covers other commodities, any bill affecting tobacco would be dealt with by the Senate Agriculture Committee before it could reach the Senate floor.

"Let's just say I wouldn't advise anybody to hold his breath till that bill gets out of my committee," Helms remarked.

”

Tar Heels know that 1985 will see the price support system for tobacco under intense fire, as opponents of the program will be joined by the Reagan administration in an effort to kill it

“

Helms has said he thinks tobacco should become more "market oriented" and has indicated he will offer legislation to make the U.S. more competitive with foreign leaf, which has been imported in greater amounts each year in the last decade until now more tobacco is imported than grown here.

This factor has contributed to another problem, and that is the amount of U.S. tobacco in storage. More than 800 million pounds of domestic leaf are now stored in warehouses in five Southeastern states.

This is leaf that failed to bring the support price at auction and was purchased and stored by a cooperative, using money borrowed from the federal government.

Interest on the borrowed money now is running at \$10 million a month, and is paid by money assessed against growers. Last year, the assessment was seven cents a pound, a burden many growers complained about.

For the 1985 crop, Block has announced the assessment will be 25 cents a pound, a heavier load and one which may cause some growers to think twice about whether to grow a crop at all.

Efforts are being made to sell the stored tobacco to manufacturers. This, if successful, would lessen or end the need for the assessment. R. W. Reynolds has indicated it will go along with the plan.

Tobacco, of course, is a very small part of the federal farm program and its cost to the government is almost nothing when compared to that of dairy products and grain. Indeed, in 1982 Congress approved a No Net Cost tobacco program, which causes tobacco supports to be financed principally by growers.

But on the tobacco issue, the Reagan White House is caught between the proverbial rock and hard place.

Reagan himself has long been an advocate of free trade and of less government interference in the market place. He wants to cut government support on all farm commodities this year and phase out the programs over the next five years, letting competition take over.

To do this—and observers cast strong doubts that he can—he will need all the support in Congress he can muster. The White House believes that it can't phase out supports for wheat and corn and leave tobacco untouched, but it may be buying trouble.

If Reagan supports his agriculture secretary (and no one believes Block has been speaking for himself alone) then he could be fighting a losing battle in Congress as he tries to reshape the nation's agriculture programs.

All of this comes as a sitting president is starting his second term after one of the most resounding reelection victories in the nation's history—his popularity high and no

prospects of ever having to face the people in any future election.

Some of his most dedicated supporters called during his first term to "Let Reagan be Reagan" as they thought they saw him straying from the conservative path he had trod for the last 20 years.

Now, faced with a budget deficit higher than any time in the nation's history, many observers think that the President, too, has decided to "Let Reagan be Reagan."—and it shows in his budget proposal.

While his Defense Secretary refused to budge an inch in cutting his budget—which is 13 percent larger than last year's record outlay—the President proposed deep cuts in the farm program, Medicare, veterans' benefits, loans to college students, and dozens of other domestic programs. And he asked for elimination of many programs outright, including subsidies to transportation (Amtrak), legal aid for the poor and small business loans.

Reagan-watchers say no one should be surprised.

"He's simply doing, now that he's been re-elected and feels he has a mandate, like the Reagan I've been listening to for many years," said a newsman who has covered the President since his California days.

That may be true, but the next few months will show whether Congress will go along.

OMB Director's Comments On Farmers Draw Sharp Criticism—From His Mom

David Stockman's mother has verbally taken him to the woodshed, saying he's wrong to think American farmers only want a federal bail-out and he doesn't realize many of them—including his parents—are going under.

Carol Stockman told an Iowa radio station that recent comments by the budget director, who grew up on the family farm in St. Joseph, Michigan, do not "set too well with me."

Mrs. Stockman told a group of reporters the day before that many farmers will be forced out of business because "that is the way a dynamic economy works" and giving more

federal help would be a "very bad signal to all the other groups who have had either a current or past crisis for their program."

Stockman's mother said her son does not seem to realize that not many young people are getting into agriculture anymore because they cannot afford it.

In an interview with WHO in Des Moines, she said, "Maybe we're living in an era where the family farm is not useful anymore. I hope not because I don't want to think that's true."

The Stockmans have about 45 acres of grape vineyards and 150 acres of corn and soybeans on their farm along Lake Michigan near the Indiana border. She said her husband has thought about quitting farming.

"We've had an abundance of crops and we're just not getting any money at all for our crops," she said. "When I looked at our books last week and found out how much money we lost, I was awed. But, you know, we've chosen this kind of a life."

The previous week, Stockman angered the farm community by saying he "can't figure out why the taxpayers of this country have the responsibility to refinance the bad debts willingly incurred by consenting adults who went out and bought farm land when the price was going up because they could get rich."

Stockman's candid comments have raised a furor before. Early in President Reagan's first term, the budget director said in a magazine interview the administration's economic program was a "Trojan Horse" that ultimately would benefit the rich—comments that didn't sit too well with the President.

Using an expression for how he had been punished as a boy, Stockman said Reagan had "taken him to the woodshed."

Agriculture Secretary John Block also criticized Stockman, calling America's farmers heroes who are "valiantly struggling" to survive an economic storm. Block also said bankers should act quickly to restructure farm debts because federal aid to debt-ridden farmers "has pretty much reached the limit."



Our "Den Mother" Bids Us Farewell

Milly Alford, whose name has been appearing on the *Carolina Country* masthead for the past 10 years, is leaving our fold to realize a dream she and her husband, Lonnie, have shared for many years.

They're leaving Raleigh to become "beach bums" on Topsail Island.

"It's something we've been talking about doing for years and now we're going to give it a try," she said.

Milly came to us on a short-term assignment through a temporary service in 1975—and never left.

She wasn't looking for a regular slot then since she and Lonnie were still getting settled again in Raleigh. It's their hometown, but they'd spent many years away—in Charlotte and in Bowie, Md.

Somehow, I convinced her to cast her lot with us, assuring her that our routine certainly couldn't be any more hectic than the one she'd grown accustomed to as a veteran church secretary.

Bringing her into our shop proved to be the best day's work I've done in this job.

Since then, she's been my right arm, cheerfully carrying a heavy load of necessary but unfulfilling clerical chores while also running

interference for us with advertisers, readers, the U.S. Postal Service, courier services, bus freight agents, the news media, sundry salesmen and sweet-talking con artists.

In addition, she's performed similar yeoman service for other staff members who oversee many of our office's services to the state's electric cooperatives.

One co-worker called her our resident "den mother" and the label stuck. Through it all, she's proven to be that and much more, keeping us going with a rare combination of charm and grace.

By mid-March, Milly and Lonnie expect to be taking up residence at Surf City, where they've been vacationing regularly for several years.

They've been making plans for this step since Lonnie retired a few years ago. Now that their new home there is nearly complete, they're ready to pull up stakes, pack up their two Schnauzers and head for the coast.

"Let's not say I'm retiring," Milly insisted. "Let's just say I'm moving to the beach."

Okay. And let's not say I'm sad to see you go.

Let's just say I have a cinder in my eye.

Ideas For Commemoratives Chosen By Stamp Collectors

How would you like to see the Postal Service issue a commemorative stamp praising the pretzel—gummed with beer-flavored glue?

Or: A stamp issued in Hell, Mich., honoring the devil himself?

These are just two of the ideas that have been submitted to the U.S. Postal Service's 17-member Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee, which makes recommendations regarding the concepts to be depicted on commemorative stamps.

They came across my desk along with other materials related to plans by the Postal Service to issue a stamp commemorating the 50th anniversary of the rural electric program. (See page 18 for details).

The citizens committee is composed of stamp collectors, including novelist James Michener and actor Ernest Borgnine, who sift through the thousands of suggestions submitted each year with the help of Jack Williams, the Postal Service stamp design manager.

Williams said the suggestions have ranged from a child's happy face drawing on a postcard to a detailed, typewritten proposal that stamps honoring Democrats be classified as first class and those for Republicans be marked "postage due."

One patron hoped stamps would be issued bearing pictures of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's 10 most wanted criminals.

"We try to maintain the integrity of our stamp program by limiting the number (of commemorative stamps) we issue," said Williams.

It Says Here . . .

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- Americans spend more than \$600 million a year on hot dogs. Each year they consume enough of them to form a chain stretching from the Earth to the moon and back again. On the average, each American eats 40 hot dogs a year.

—Owen Bishop

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